

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and the specification has been amended to correct clerical errors.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. In paragraph 4 of the Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morgavi.

In view of the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the invention and include the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3-6 have been amended to change dependency and correct a clerical error.

As cited in claim 1, a printing apparatus of the invention comprises at least one printing means for selectively forming an image on a recording medium and an intermediate transfer medium that temporarily retains the image, over-coating means for covering a surface of the recording medium formed thereupon with the image with a coating film, and transfer means for transferring the image on the intermediate transfer medium to the recording medium. The over-coating means and the transfer means are integrated together and formed by a single heating element.

Since the transfer means is integrated with the over-coating means as the single unit, it is possible to transfer the image for an indirect printing and over-coat the recording medium by using the single heating element, thereby reducing a size of the printing apparatus.

Morgavi has disclosed a simultaneous two-face printing machine for cards, such as plastic cards. The printing machine includes a device for guiding and conveying a card; two identical printing machines having thermal printer heads 10 and 11; a device for simultaneous moving and positioning of the thermal printer heads; and an electronic control circuit for the guiding and conveying machine and the device for the simultaneous moving and positioning of the thermal printer heads. In the printing machine, it is possible to print two sides of the card simultaneously. In particular, a printing ribbon 12 is associated with the thermal

printer head 10 disposed above a card, and another printing ribbon 13 is associated with the thermal printer head 11 disposed under the recording medium. Accordingly, the printing machine can print two sides of the card simultaneously using the two identical printing machines and the ribbons 12 and 13, thereby obtaining a greater speed of execution.

The printing apparatus of the invention includes at least one printing means for selectively forming an image on a recording medium and an intermediate transfer medium that temporarily retains the image. In Morgavi, the printing heads 10, 11 form images on two sides of the card. Namely, Morgavi does not have printing means for printing the image on a intermediate transfer medium.

In the invention, the over-coating means covers a surface of the recording medium with the image thereon with a coating film. Morgavi does not have a device for covering a card with a coating film.

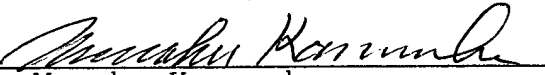
In the invention, further, the over-coating means and the transfer means are integrated together and formed by a single heating element. This structure is not disclosed in Morgavi.

It is believed that the rejections are obviated, and the application is now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
PATENT AGENTS, LLP

by 
Manabu Kanesaka
Reg. No. 31,467
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9785